

HOW TO READ A SHAKESPEAREAN PLAY TEXT

This is an invaluable introductory guide for the English student who needs to decipher a page from a play, or a facsimile equivalent, from the Shakespearean period. The original quartos and folios of early play texts are increasingly subject to editorial and critical scrutiny, and electronic facsimiles are making the originals accessible to undergraduate and graduate students. Giddens provides a practical 'how to' guide to the original printed texts of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. He explains how the features of the play text came about, what the different elements mean, and who created them. The book provides that important first step towards bibliography and critical editing, presenting a detailed account of how to read these early texts and how they have been turned into the modern editions we are accustomed to.

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Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-88640-6 — How to Read a Shakespearean Play Text
Edited by Eugene Giddens
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CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
 It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521886406

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First published 2011

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data
 Giddens, Eugene.

How to read a Shakespearean play text / Eugene Giddens.
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-88640-6 (hardback)

1. Shakespeare, William, 1564–1616 – Criticism, Textual.
2. Shakespeare, William, 1564–1616 – Authorship. I. Title.

PR2976.G49 2011

822.3'3 – dc22 2010048071

ISBN 978-0-521-88640-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-71397-9 Paperback

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Acknowledgments

I am very grateful for early and continued bibliographical training and encouragement from Martin Wiggins, John Jowett, and Stanley Wells, who taught me as a PhD student at the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, and for many years thereafter. David Bevington, Martin Butler, Ian Donaldson, and David Gants, the general editors and electronic editor of *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson*, greatly enhanced my knowledge of early texts. Under their tutelage, as an Arts and Humanities Research Board research associate, I learned how to collate for stop-press variants, perform headline analysis, and deploy a host of other bibliographical techniques as discussed in this book. The ‘Guidelines’ for the *Cambridge Jonson* are probably the best ‘How to . . .’ manual in existence for beginning editors, and I am fortunate to have heard many conversations and exchanges that refined and tested those instructions. Research towards this book, and especially towards those sections that concern James Shirley, was supported by a Clark–Huntington Joint Bibliographical Fellowship to the Clark Library, UCLA, and Huntington Library, San Marino. Research in the Meisei University Library, Tokyo, was funded by an Anglo–Daiwa Japanese Foundation grant, and facilitated by the generosity of Noriko Sumimoto, Hitoshi Honda, and Chiaki Hanabusa. Bibliographical work on the forthcoming *Complete Works of James Shirley* has been supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. I am particularly grateful to Teresa Grant, one of the general editors of the *Complete Shirley*, and Alison Searle, postdoctoral researcher, for countless discussions about textual difficulties. Dr Searle has also been a keen reader of drafts of this book. My institution, Anglia Ruskin University, has been very generous in providing time to conduct this research. Special thanks go to Cambridge University Press’s anonymous final reader, whose keen insights vastly improved this book in its last stages. Zoe Jaques also deserves my gratitude for reading drafts at every stage, for constructing

Acknowledgments

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the line drawings, and for boundless support. Any faults that remain are my own.

The illustrations have been supported through the generosity of a British Academy Smaller Research Grant. Stephen Tabor at the Huntington Library, Noriko Sumimoto of Meisei University Library, and the Syndics and Imaging Services department at Cambridge University Library have been most helpful and generous in supplying rights to use images from their collections.